Radiation Safety Program – Laboratory Contamination Decision Tree

Are radioactive materials present in your laboratory?

Suspect the presence of radioactive material (RAM) contamination

Are any RAM stock vials open in the lab?

Have any RAM wastes been spilled or leaked onto work surfaces, floors, drawers, etc.

Has any RAM been pipetted in the laboratory?

Did you answer the phone, open a door or touch surfaces with gloves used to handle RAM?

RAM contamination is possible in the lab

RAM contamination is not likely to be present in the lab

Please Note: ONLY the laboratory RAM Authorized User, trained laboratory radiation workers or the Radiation Safety Officer (Authorized Personnel) can complete RAM spill cleanups in the laboratory. You may only attempt spill cleanups if you are fully aware of the hazards produced by the RAM isotope being used in the laboratory (see nuclide safety data sheet).

Authorized Personnel – Perform a radiation survey of your lab (Geiger counter or LSC) and hand areas/other contact areas of your body (Geiger counter). Each swipe sample for LSC testing should cover a 100 cm² area. Fully document all sampling and surveys – See Responding to Radioactive Material Spills in Laboratories Flow Chart for more Details – Call EHS at 704-687-1111 for information.